

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181169

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 14187 SENT ACTION CANBERRA INFO
SECSTATE VIENTIANE PEKING, 11 SEPTEMBER:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 14187

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, KN, CG, TH

SUBJECT: TERRILL'S COMMENTS ON EAST ASIA

REF: A. CANBERRA 4986; B. BANGKOK 13889 (NOTAL)

1. WE WERE INTERESTED IN TERRILL'S COMMENTS ON THE VIEWS
OF THAI LEADERS. WHILE THE RTG IS EXPLORING A BROADENED
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRC, THAI LEADERSHIP REMAINS DIS-
TURBED BY CONTINUING CHINESE SUPPORT OF THAI INSURGENTS.
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIEN, IN A SEPTEM-
BER 10 PRESS CONFERENCE, POINTED OUT THAT "COMMUNIST CHINA"
IS STILL HOLDING INCITING AND SUPPORTING TERRORIST ELEMENTS IN VAR-
IOUS SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES TO WAGE WAR ON THEIR COUNTRYMEN.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WHO ACCOMPANIED THE THAI
BADMINTON TEAM TO PEKING IN AUGUST TOOK LITTLE COMFORT FROM
CHINESE ASSURANCES THAT THE THAI SHOULD NOT WORRY ABOUT THE
PRC ROAD COMPLEX IN NORTH LAOS (REFTEL B). THE MAIN CHANGE
IN THE RTG ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PRC HAS BEEN FROM A HANDS-
OFF POSTURE TO ONE OF EXPLORATORY CORDIALITY. THE RTG
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REMAINS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, ABOUT CHINESE INTENTIONS IN SOUTHEAST
ASIA.

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